



**MDOC**

Week ending  
July 8, 2011

# *From the Field*

**Conserving Maine's Special Places for Maine People**

Dear Friends of Conservation:

The Legislature has adjourned, the state budget has been set, and the Maine Department of Conservation is in full gear.

So here's a summary of what's happening: the Land Use Regulation Commission, which has a new commissioner, is challenged with numerous wind projects; once again, the invasive exotic insects are threatening to attack our Maine forests and we are taking action against them; our Maine state parks and campgrounds are full, under the dedicated supervision of park staff; our state geologists are in the field with beach, coastal and ecological research under way; and our forest firefighters are getting training by helping other states in their fight against wildfires.



Most recently, we have been spending time developing substantive, collegial relations with our sister departments, the Maine Department of Agriculture and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. We expect our joint efforts to be productive.

As a member of the New England Governor's Conference Commission on Land Conservation and the "Keeping Maine's Forests" initiative, I have been participating in an examination of the concept of our region as a 21<sup>st</sup> century agrarian economy, using "agrarian" in the broadest meaning of the word, as relating to the whole natural world.

Last month, the MDOC senior management team held a one-day retreat, with a special visit from Gov. Paul LePage. Gov. LePage interacted with the team members and shared his vision of how he sees the MDOC playing a strategic role in getting our economy going while preserving Maine values.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed bike trips on four different sections of the Down East Sunrise Trail in Hancock and Washington counties. It's been very nice to get out and experience this unique, multi-use trail. I'm impressed!

I hope you are enjoying our all-too-brief summer season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William H. Beardsley".

Bill Beardsley  
MDOC Commissioner

## **Governor Commends Maine Forest Service Forest Rangers for Out-of-State Service**

Gov. Paul LePage in June commended Maine Forest Service (MFS) forest rangers who have been responding with highly professional support to help fight several major wild fires around the country. MFS forest ranger crews have been dispatched since April to assist in fighting major wild fires in Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida.

The Maine crews serve primarily in leadership positions that make use of their extensive wildland firefighting experience. They are mobilized at the request and expense of the federal and state governments. For the first time, the Maine Forest Service also is sending specialized brush trucks to assist in fighting the blazes.

“I am very proud that our Maine Forest Service forest rangers can go to the assistance of our sister states to help fight these terrible fires that threaten human lives and property,” Gov. LePage said. “Not only do they make use of their superb, nationally recognized firefighting skills, but they also extend their training and build up reciprocity in case Maine ever needs to call for similar aid.”

So far, nine MFS forest rangers and one ranger pilot have been sent to help with the wildfires in Texas, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina. With the exception of the engine crews, most of the forest rangers usually go out in leadership positions as division supervisors, field observers working for the incident planning supervisor, and division safety officers, all which require extensive wildland firefighting experience.

For the first time, the Maine Forest Service has sent three brush trucks to help suppress the wildfires. These specialized fire engines – like mini pumper trucks -- carry 600 gallons of water plus other firefighting tools and are designed to go off road. They stay at the incident until the out-of-state wildfires are 100 percent contained.

Last week, the MFS Incident Management Team was sent to Texas to help the Texas Forest Service. The MFS team is one of only two nationally recognized, state incident-management teams in the U.S. which can handle wildfires and major natural disasters. The Maine IM Team consists of 10 to 12 rangers who cover all the leadership positions ranging from incident commander to operations, plans, logistics, finance and public information.



MFS Forest Ranger George Harris (with fire hose) and District Ranger Lance Martin mop up a recently burned area using MFS Engine No. 6169, based out of Island Falls. The truck is a specially designed and equipped vehicle also used for out-of-state mobilizations (Charles Jackman photo).

### **Maine Forest Service Firewood Exchange Finds Potentially Dangerous Wood**

The MFS firewood exchange held in May prevented some potentially dangerous wood from Massachusetts from reaching Maine’s forests. During the detail, a team of six MFS forest rangers made 250 contacts and 27 firewood seizures, including a load of wood from Worcester, Mass., an area known to be heavily infested with the invasive species, Asian longhorned beetle (ALB).



The wood, which is under a federal quarantine, was immediately tagged, bagged, dissected and then burned. USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is following up to get more details. Fortunately, the wood showed no signs of ALB, which has not yet been found in Maine.

People bringing in out-of-state firewood received Maine wood at the northbound Kittery checkpoint on the Maine Turnpike and were given a written violation. Fewer contacts were made during this exchange, the third to be held since the Maine Legislature banned out-of-state firewood last year. That could mean that more people are aware of the ban and are respecting it.

A fourth exchange was held over the Fourth of July weekend, with another exchange possible over the Labor Day weekend. For more information on the state firewood ban, go to: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fhm/pages/firewood.html>

## **MFS Project Canopy Receives Two 2011 U.S. Grants**

The Maine Forest Service was recently awarded two U.S. Forest Service competitive grants for Project Canopy-related work.

The **Emerald Ash Borer Planning and Response** project, funded at \$48,712, will bring the MFS Urban & Community Forestry Program and the MFS Forest Health and Monitoring Division together to work with the Town of Brunswick on a demonstration project to raise sensitivity, incorporate EAB risk into street-tree censuses, and plan and implement replacement planting efforts.

Since its discovery in 2002, the emerald ash borer (EAB) has had a dramatic impact on urban and community forests throughout the Northeast. EAB is expected to appear in Maine and ignoring the problem will not make it go away. As shown by municipalities in the Midwest, the longer a community waits to prepare for the infestation, the greater the burden on local budgets and staff.



This project will show that with proper preparation, communities can anticipate and minimize the environmental and economic impact of losing their ash trees to EAB.

Through the **Landscape Planning and Comprehensive Resource Assessment** project, funded at \$86,354, MFS will partner with the Town of Oxford to address forest land conversion before it becomes too late.

Together with the Maine State Planning Office, the division will work closely with the town to address forest land conversion and parceling at the landscape level. MFS staff will dovetail this effort with street tree management planning, community wildfire-protection planning and subsequent fuel-reduction programming, community education on forest conservation, citizen training and monitoring efforts for invasive exotic pests, stewardship planning for private

woodland owners, and a demonstration forest to showcase good woodland stewardship.

## **Project Canopy Awards Tree-planting Grants to Schools**

Project Canopy, the MFS community forestry program, has awarded 22 Maine schools a total of more than \$17,000 in grants for tree-planting projects. The schools, including elementary, middle, high and technical schools, will plant the trees for a variety of purposes, such as improving school lunch programs, curriculum development and landscaping. The individual grants, provided under the Arbor Week Tree-Planting Grant Program, range from \$1,000 to \$227 for a total of \$17,494. This is the first year of the grant program, which has federal and corporate sponsors.

The Arbor Week Tree-Planting Grant Program is funded by the USDA Forest Service-Urban and Community Forestry Program, with corporate sponsorship from Evergreen Credit Union, Portland; Androscoggin Bank, Lewiston; and Central Maine Power, Augusta.

The school projects were acknowledged in May as part of the annual Arbor Week celebration, with a special ceremony at the Maine State Cultural Building Atrium.

A complete list of the recipient schools can be found at:

[http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/projectcanopy/pages/resource/2011\\_grants.htm](http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/projectcanopy/pages/resource/2011_grants.htm)

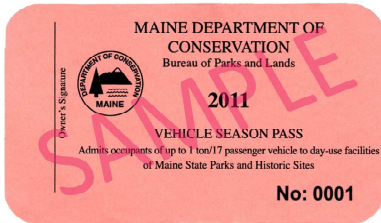
## **Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands: New Online Park-Pass Purchase System Up and Running**

The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) is offering a secure, convenient method of purchasing season passes to all 48 state parks and historic sites with use of the new online system. The online purchase system has been completely reconfigured by InforMe (Information Resource of Maine), the state's online-information developer. In test mode for the past two weeks, the system already is being used successfully by park-pass customers.



BPL offers two types of seasonal passes for day use at all the bureau's state parks and historic sites: a vehicle park pass, costing \$70, that permits entrance to all occupants of a 1-ton/17-passenger vehicle; and an individual park pass, costing \$35, that allows access only to the pass holder.

BPL offers four different ways to buy park passes. Most people buy park passes when they make a visit to a state park; others use their Maine state tax form to make their pass purchase or contact the BPL reservation center directly.



The online purchase service began in 2006, and since then, sales have grown substantially each year. Last year, the reservation center sold about 2,000 park passes on line. The new system has been in place since June 15.

The new InforMe system is simple to use, requiring just a credit card, the reservation supervisor said. Customers can reach the site through the [maine.gov](http://maine.gov) or BPL home

pages, going directly to the website, or by doing an online search. Customers receive not only their passes, but also a copy of the popular "Outdoors in Maine" map brochure describing all of Maine's state parks and historic sites.

For the online park pass system, go to: <http://www.mainestateparkpass.com>

To contact the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands Reservations Call Center, call: In Maine, 800-332-1501; Outside of Maine: (207) 624-9950; TTY: 1-888-577-6690 or email: [campground.reservations@maine.gov](mailto:campground.reservations@maine.gov)

### BPL Boating Division Undertakes Two Projects

The BPL Boating Division has two significant projects under way that will make a difference to boaters on two popular Maine lakes, Branch Lake near Ellsworth and Moosehead Lake at Rockwood.



Old Barge Ramp at Rockwood

The new Branch Lake Boating Facility is out to bid. Twelve years after the only public ramp on the main lake was closed to public use, BPL has been successful in obtaining all necessary permits to move forward with this project. The facility is expected to be completed late this fall, too late for service this year, but ready for use in the spring of 2012.

In addition to a 20-foot-wide concrete plank ramp with adjacent boarding float that meet standards set by the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), the facility will include a 25-rig, ADA-compliant parking lot, ADA-compliant vault toilet, boat-washing station, and electrically operated access gate. In addition to the boating facility, a new, 6,000-foot-long access road will be constructed across BPL's 1,200-acre property from Happytown Road to the shore so the public can access the new

boating facility, the existing beach and possible future multi-use, non-motorized trails, without having to use the existing camp road.

In a first of its kind arrangement, BPL has negotiated an agreement with the City of Ellsworth to allow city staff to open and close the gate to the boating facility allowing dawn-to-dusk access and to conduct invasive plant inspections using city-hired staff.

Phase 1 of the Rockwood pier renovation on Moosehead Lake nearly is complete. Some 475 feet of the most rotted timber cribbing has been replaced with 135 feet of rip-rapped slope and 340 feet of timber cribbing. The cribbing was pre-fabricated in 24-foot sections in Rockport and trucked to the site. After setting the cribbing modules in place, a concrete foundation was cast under them by pumping the concrete



New Barge Ramp at Rockwood

under water, using a method known as “tremie piping.”

The division hopes to complete the second and final phase of the project this fall and winter.

### Trunk That Survived 1635 Shipwreck on Display at Colonial Pemaquid

A 376-year-old horsehide trunk that survived a shipwreck in Colonial America -- caused by one of the most terrific storms to occur along the Maine coast -- now is on display at Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site. John Cogswell of Buena Vista, Colo., a direct descendent of the same-named American colonist who first owned the trunk, has lent the historic artifact to the Colonial Pemaquid museum for seven years, with the possibility of its becoming part of the museum’s permanent collection.



The Cogswell Trunk on display  
at Colonial Pemaquid

Colonial Pemaquid is a unique Maine historic site that began as a colonial fishing settlement established in the 1620s that produced and shipped cod to England. In 1635, the English galleon *Angel Gabriel* went to the bottom of Pemaquid Harbor in the “Great Colonial Hurricane” of 1635. Merchant John Cogswell was a passenger on the *Gabriel’s* voyage from England and, like many but not all of his fellow travelers, disembarked for the night while the ship anchored at the Pemaquid settlement in modern-day Bristol, Maine.

After the massive storm hit the area and sank the ship, Cogswell managed to recover some of his goods, including the small trunk covered with horsehide and decorated with ornate, round-headed nails including the letters “J.C.”

Last year, a new bronze plaque commemorating the shipwreck on the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event was unveiled at Colonial Pemaquid. The latest John M. Cogswell – the sixth male of that name in the direct family line between him and his ancestor who first owned the trunk -- read about the plaque and contacted Tom Desjardin, BPL park historian

After exchanging a few e-mails, Cogswell arranged to loan the trunk to Colonial Pemaquid for seven years, with the possibility of making it a permanent donation. Cogswell also has provided an affidavit attesting to the provenance of the trunk through his family.

Visitors now can view the distinctive, monogrammed trunk on display at the Colonial Pemaquid museum, along with a model ship depicting how the *Angel Gabriel* looked. The historic plaque, embedded in a granite monument, also can be viewed on the grounds of the state historic site.

### Maine Conservation Corps Summer Season in Full Swing

The Maine Conservation Corps, under BPL, now has nine trail crews out in the field from Deboullie to Cobscook to Bradbury and a lot of places in between. Projects were completed recently at Vaughan Woods and Shackford Head state parks and Scraggly Lake Public Reserved Land.

During the summer season, crews also will be spending a total of 12 weeks at Androscoggin Riverlands State Park, six weeks at Dodge Point Public Reserved Land, and 24 weeks on four different projects on the Appalachian Trail.

In late May, MCC also welcomed 10 new environmental educators -- for a total of 28 -- who are serving at host sites such as the Maine State Aquarium, Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, and Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory.



MCC environmental educators take a break  
during their “Celebration of Service” on  
Potato Hill.

From June 22-24, the MCC environmental educators participated in a “Celebration of Service.” They assisted fellow Environmental Educator Ben Godsoe, who is serving with the Sandy River Land Trust & High Peaks Alliance, with work on the Fly Rod Crosby Trail and other trails projects in western Maine.

## Park Notes

- MDOC Commissioner Bill Beardsley and his wife Betsy have been getting out and about to Maine’s state parks and historic sites, including Roque Bluffs and Aroostook state parks. The commissioner had a chance in June to meet with Park Manager Scott Thompson at “Maine’s First State Park” (Aroostook) and stopped for some picture-taking.

- The new 2011 Maine State Parks Passport has been printed and is available now at all Maine state parks and historic sites. Watch for an upcoming announcement.

The new edition has been upgraded and improved -- *But don’t get rid of your 2010 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the passport!* You still can collect your park stamps to earn your park rewards – with a different reward for every eight stamps -- using last year’s edition of the passport. The top reward for collecting all 48 stamps is a season vehicle pass.

The first-edition passport with its unique logo is expected to become a keepsake for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Who knows? It may even end up on EBay.

- Androscoggin Riverlands State Park has a new park manager, Steve Gaffney, formerly of the Maine Conservation Corps, and a new park sign. The distinctive park sign was installed in June by installation crew (left to right) Ralph Wilkinson, BPL maintenance coordinator, Terence Donahue, BPL maintenance coordinator, and Gaffney.

The unique, two-section park, located near Maine’s second largest urban area of Lewiston-Auburn, consists of 2,675 acres with 12 miles of frontage on the Androscoggin River. In the Turner Lands area, there are 12 miles of multi-use trails and 10 miles of foot trails. In the Leeds Lands section, the park follows the east shore of the river and is accessible by boat and snowmobile.

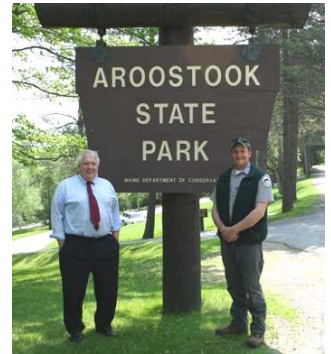
- BPL is wrapping up a management plan for the Kennebec Highlands, a public reserved land in Kennebec and Franklin counties. A public meeting on the final draft plan was held on June 29 in Mt. Vernon, with about 40 people attending.

Kennebec Highlands is a state-owned property that stretches across the woodlands and hills of four towns, Vienna, Mount Vernon, Rome and New Sharon, Hudnor said. The area was purchased using Land for Maine’s Future funds over the last 11 years in partnership with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance. The land features remote ponds, streams, rolling uplands, several low mountains and two parcels with frontage on Long Pond. The property is remarkable for the variety of recreation opportunities located close to many of central Maine’s population centers.

The final draft plan recommends recreational uses – both motorized and non-motorized -- for separate areas of the Highlands as recommended by the public in a series of public meetings held in 2007.

Many people attending the June 29 meeting expressed support for the plan, and comments were received about the ATV trail location, need for signage and additional staff presence, issues around parking, and other items. A written comment period extends to July 20, after which BPL staff will consider comments and prepare a final plan.

- The new group shelter at Damariscotta Lake State Park in Jefferson has opened for the season, two years after the old one was destroyed by an arsonist. Funded through insurance money and a private donation, construction began last year, with a



Commissioner Beardsley  
and Park Manager  
Thompson



Park Sign Crew



new slab, steel uprights and pre-fabricated trusses. Finishing and grading work was completed entirely by BPL staff, with new cabinetry built by Don King, BPL maintenance coordinator.

With its new electric lighting, the facility is more open, brighter, and more visible to the park staff and the public. Other features include a sink with hot and cold water; granite counter tops; new cabinetry; a 4 foot-wide group grill; eight picnic tables; a wheelchair accessible road with access to the shelter; and a new bulletin board nearby.

The use fee is \$50 per day. For more information about Damariscotta Lake State Park, call the park at: (207) 549-7600.

•The giant “bake house” oven at Fort Knox State Historic Site in Prospect, Maine’s most popular state historic site, has been undergoing renovations. The wood-heated oven, once used to feed soldiers garrisoned at the coastal fort, is 12 feet deep, 10 feet wide and 19 inches high and can hold up to 400 loaves of bread. It was first fired up last summer after remaining unused since 1898, more than 112 years. The oven has been used several times this season for demonstrations to fort visitors.

The oven masonry is being repaired by Richard Irons of Richard Irons General Contracting and Restoration, LLC, of Limerick under a \$5,000 contract with BPL.

Other restoration work also is being undertaken at Fort Knox by the Friends of Fort Knox, which is funding a major project on the fort’s powder magazine.

### Maine Geological Survey: Mystery about Ancient Wood Solved

A significant geological mystery surrounding ancient pieces of wood found in Portland has been solved and is leading to new information about Maine’s environment following the retreat of the giant glaciers that covered the state until about 16,000 years ago. It also is offering new information on how coastal landslides still can occur today.



Woodrow Thompson (right), MGS physical geologist, reviews maps of Portland’s Fore River area with Tim Goff, WCSH-6 video journalist.

The mystery began in 1976, when Woodrow B. Thompson, MGS physical geologist, was doing geological mapping of Cumberland County, and Portland in particular, for the Greater Portland Council of Governments. In an old gravel pit near the Fore River, Thompson saw an exposure of “the Presumpscot Formation,” a layer of clay-rich marine sediment – much like the mud on tidal flats – that was laid down on the ocean floor and formed when Maine’s coastal lowland was drowned by the sea following retreat of the glacial ice sheet.

In that formation were pieces of preserved wood that had been encased in the clay. It turned out to be the largest and best-preserved accumulation of such old fossil wood ever found in Maine, and it led Thompson to wonder how they got there.

The MGS geologist had to wait 31 years to solve the puzzle, when construction began at the new Mercy Fore River Hospital campus in spring 2007 and more buried wood was discovered, leading to extensive, interdisciplinary research on the fossils.

Radiocarbon dating showed that the trees died about 13,500 years ago, and investigating scientists concluded from all the data that the trees were part of an open spruce forest living in environmental conditions similar to those of today’s southern Maine coast. A large, prehistoric landslide on the side of what now is Bramhall Hill in Portland swept the clay, gravel and trees into the sea, where the trees were immediately covered and lay



New group shelter



Park Historian Tom Desjardin inside the Fort Knox bake oven, with 19 inches of head room.

undiscovered for thousands of years.

Pieces of the fossil wood today remain at the New York State Museum and the Cornell Tree-Ring Laboratory, as well as at the Maine State Museum and the Maine Geological Survey.

The findings about the ancient tree remains were published this spring in an article in “Quaternary Research,” a major interdisciplinary journal out of the University of Washington that focuses on the earth and environmental sciences. In addition to Thompson, the article’s authors include: Carol B. Griggs, laboratory manager, Cornell Tree-Ring Laboratory; Norton G. Miller, curator emeritus and paleobotanist, New York State Museum; Robert E. Nelson, professor of geology, Colby College; Thomas K. Weddle, hydrogeologist, MGS; and Taylor M. Kilian, graduate researcher, Yale University.

### **MGS Sponsors 2011 Maine Beaches Conference**

The 2011 Maine Beaches Conference – this year focusing on “Coastal Places, Processes, and Partnerships: Balancing Values and Expectations on Maine’s Beaches” – will take place Friday, July 15, at Southern Maine Community College, South Portland. The conference is sponsored by the Maine Geological Survey, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Coastal Program and Maine Sea Grant, with others.



The conference will include a report on the status of Maine’s beaches, to be presented by Peter Slovinsky, MGS coastal geologist. There also will be panel discussions on such topics as state regulations, public access, working with coastal communities on resiliency, and sea level rise, and a multi-media art show.

Registration fees, which include lunch, vary by deadline; to register, go to [www.seagrant.umaine.edu/11mbc.htm](http://www.seagrant.umaine.edu/11mbc.htm) or call 207-581-1435. Go to [www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mgs/explore/marine/beach-conference/beaches-2011.htm](http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mgs/explore/marine/beach-conference/beaches-2011.htm) for full details.

### **Hammond Confirmed as New LURC Commissioner**

The former CEO for Hancock Lumber and Hancock Land has been confirmed as the newest member of the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC). Toby Hammond of Naples was nominated to the commission this spring by Gov. Paul LePage and confirmed in June by the Maine Senate.



Toby Hammond

In nominating the well-known businessman, Gov. LePage stated that he thought Hammond would “make a valuable contribution to the State” in the LURC position.

Created by the Maine Legislature in 1971, LURC oversees the planning and zoning for the state’s townships, plantations and unorganized territories, comprising about 10.4 million acres of land and including some coastal islands. The commission, composed of seven members appointed by the Governor, has land use regulatory jurisdiction over those areas that have no form of local government to administer land-use controls or have chosen not to have such control at the local level.

The Hancock Companies, established in 1848, are a sixth generation family business. Employing 500 people, they specialize in timberland management of 10,000 acres and operate three state-of-the-art Eastern white pine sawmills and 10 retail locations offering traditional building supplies and specialty construction services.

Hammond was CEO and chairman of the board for Hancock Lumber and Hancock Land until 2000 and still remains on the companies’ board of directors. He is chairman of the Fryeburg Fair Woodsman’s Field Day and the Fryeburg Fair Natural Resource Building. Past appointments include the presidency of the Moose Pond Environmental Association; member of the board of the Maine Forest Products Council and the Finance Authority of Maine; and service on the Commission of Northern Forest Lands for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Hammond received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maine Orono. He is married to Janie Hammond and has two daughters.

### Burke Joins Commissioner's Office

Dan Burke has joined the Commissioner's Office as Assistant to the Commissioner and is working on a number of projects assigned by Commissioner Beardsley. Almost two months into his new position, Burke says he is impressed with the Maine Department of Conservation and finds MDOC staff members "very hardworking, committed to the goals and initiatives of the department."

"Everyone here is very friendly and helpful," he says. "It's been great to come into that atmosphere."

Burke currently is doing research to support the new Land Use Regulation Commission Study Commission and also is working on Land for Maine's Future and with BPL regarding conservation easements and acquisitions. "The level of interaction between the four MDOC divisions is remarkable," he says, noting the cooperation and "lots of intersection between what they do."



Dan Burke

The new assistant has strong ties to Maine; his grandparents lived on Westport Island off Wiscasset, and his family has a home on Sebago Lake. "I grew up coming to Maine during the summer, and I've seen things change pretty much every year," he says. "The lakes and woods have been a big part of my life, and I love the opportunity of being here and near them."

Burke received his Bachelor of Arts in geology at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, and then a Master of Studies in environmental law and a Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT. He is an avid sea kayaker and mountain biker who has paddled Acadia and the Cranberries and biked at Bradbury Mountain State Park.

Burke and his wife, Emily, and 8-month-old son, James, recently moved into their new home in Bangor.

### Check It Out ...

- The Maine Forest Service and Unity College will present a workshop on the invasive species, hemlock woolly adelgid, and hemlock management planning, **8:30 a.m.-12 noon, Saturday, July 9, at Unity College, Unity**. A field session also will be held. Snacks and van transportation to the field site will be provided. The workshop is free, but registration is necessary. Register by email to MFS District Forester Morten Moesswilde, [morten.moesswilde@maine.gov](mailto:morten.moesswilde@maine.gov), or call (cell phone) 441-2895.

- Jocelyn Hubbell, BPL interpretive specialist, will present a program on "Mysterious Mammals of the Night - Bats!" **at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 14, Holbrook Island Sanctuary, Brooksville**. The program, geared toward adults and families, with all ages welcome, will include a slide show and evening hike. Hubbell will discuss bat behavior, ecological importance and history among humans, with an update on white-nose syndrome. The hike will include looking and listening for bats with a bat detector. For more information, (207) 326-4012, Holbrook Island Sanctuary.



Bat with white-nose syndrome,  
Photo courtesy of MDIF&W

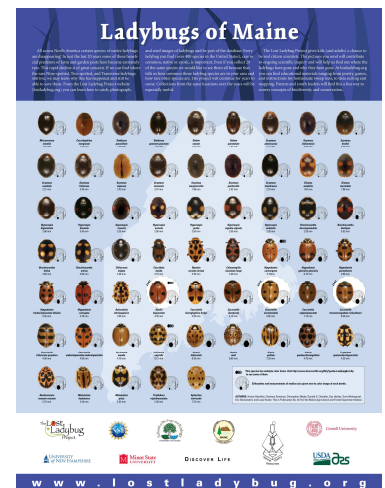
- The lighthouse at **Fort Point State Park in Stockton Springs** will be open for guided tours, **10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, July 17**, according to Park Manager Terry Cole. If you haven't been to this little gem of a park on Penobscot Bay, this would be a great time to take a picnic, stroll the shoreline and climb up the spiral stairs and ladder to the tower

lantern room. The Friends of Fort Point will be selling merchandise, with all proceeds and donations going directly to assist with park restoration and public-accessibility projects. Volunteers are needed to assist with the tours, so please contact Terry Cole, park manager, at 567-3356

- The Maine Conservation Corps looking for volunteers to help out with field team projects at Cobscook Bay State Park, Great Wass Island, Androscoggin Riverlands State Park, and in Kennebunk and Georgetown. If you're looking for something a little more back country, there also are three projects on the Appalachian Trail (Saddleback Mountain, Pleasant Pond and West Baldpate) as well as projects in Baxter State Park and the Deboullie Public Reserved Land Unit. In mid-July, MCC Environmental Educator Emily Ellingson is looking for help with some children's activities at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay in celebration of the grand opening of the Bosarge Family Education Center. Dates and details for all MCC projects can be found on the MCC website: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/mcc/volunteer.html>. For more information, please contact MCC Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Gaffney at [sarah.gaffney@maine.gov](mailto:sarah.gaffney@maine.gov) or 624-6092.

- Bob Johnston, MGS senior geologist responsible for creating the geologic hikes in the division's newest publication, "A Guide to the Geology of Baxter State Park and Katahdin," will present several geological programs and hikes this month and in September. **At 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 20, South Branch Pond Campground, Baxter State Park**, Johnston will talk on the bedrock and glacial geology of the South Branch Pond area and then lead a short hike up the up the Ledges Trail to the scenic overlook. The presentation is one of the Baxter State Park 2011 Evening Program series. It will be repeated **at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 7**, at the same location in Baxter. **At 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 3, at Cobscook Bay State Park**, Johnston will talk about the unique coastal geology of the area.

- How many lady beetles are native to Maine? If the answer is buggin' you, check out the new Ladybugs of Maine poster (below, right) available through the Lost Ladybug Project at <http://www.lostladybug.org/identification-tools-1083.php>. This highly informative poster was created with the help of MFS Forest Entomologist Charlene Donahue, the University of Maine and several other organizations. You can download your own .PDF copy of the poster, and better yet, take part in the nationwide effort to gather important data and photos of ladybugs.



- The Maine Forest Service (MFS) and Maine Project Learning Tree (PLT) are offering educators a comprehensive tour of the forests of the Presumpscot River watershed, relating the information to classroom practice. The tour and workshop is available at no cost through a U.S. Forest Service grant. The details are: **8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 16, meeting at St. Joseph's College, Standish**. Tour leaders will relate history, science, math and technology presentations to Common Core standards with lessons from the field and from two of Project Learning Tree's curriculum guides: "Places We Live;" and the 2011 "Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests." Handouts and resource materials include the PLT guides, maps, a "Forest Trees of Maine" book published by MFS and more. Participants will receive eight contact hours. They should be sure to dress for outdoor activities rain or shine. Snacks and lunch provided. For more information or to register before the Aug. 8 deadline contact: Pat Maloney, 626-7990 or 621-9872 / [mtf@gwi.net](mailto:mtf@gwi.net).

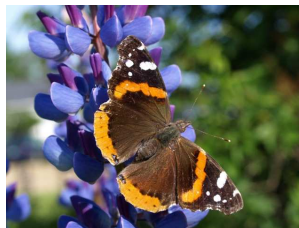
- The Maine Forest Service still looking for colonies of the beneficial wasp, *Cerceris fumipennis*, which can help detect the presence of the invasive and highly destructive emerald ash borer (EAB). The wasps, which emerge around this time, especially like to nest in the sandy soil of baseball diamonds. Volunteers are being asked to help protect their communities by looking for *Cerceris* nests at school and community ball fields between mid-July and mid-August. MFS also is looking for volunteers near the towns of Whitefield, Skowhegan and Norway who would be willing to "adopt" an existing colony in one of these towns and spend about 10-15 hours during the summer to

monitor the prey brought in. For more information, go to: [www.maine.gov/cerceris](http://www.maine.gov/cerceris)

- Speaking of invasive bugs, this month is the time to start looking for EAB and Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), which threaten Maine forests. The Maine Forest Service expects EAB to emerge in late June and ALB to emerge in mid-July. If you find any suspicious insect, put it in the freezer and call the bug lab at (207) 287-2431 or 1-800-367-0263.
- One more bug thing – the Maine Forest Service, National Park Service, Maine Entomological Society, University of Maine, University of New Hampshire and the Schoodic Education and Research Center will sponsor the 9<sup>th</sup> annual bioblitz on July 22-25 at Acadia National Park. Bug people will hunt and collect all kinds of moths and butterflies in the Schoodic section of the park, as well as participate in presentations on all things entomological. Lead taxonomist for the event will be Dr. Brian Scholtens from the University of Charleston. For more information, contact David Manski at Acadia National Park at (207) 288-8720.

*Coda* -- From a young camper at Mt. Blue State Park, photo courtesy of Park Manager Bruce Farnham:

**A veil of green leaves above your head  
Birds singing day and night  
A distant plane flying by  
Bugs humming in your ear  
The smell of a campfire and marshmallows  
The occasional loon call  
Children laughing and playing  
A dog barking as you walk by  
Peace. This is how life should be**



For more information on the Maine Department of Conservation, go to: <http://www.maine.gov/doc>

###